



Bikkur Cholim Committee honored at November 15 sabbath service. Top row (l. to r.) Steve Nacamulli, Alison Cohen, Eli Weinstein, Paul Cohen. Bottom row (l. to r.) Allen Harris, Florence Nacamulli, Lane Schickler. (Not present: David Shaber, Allan Berenstein, Phil Charney, Claudia Bernard.) PHOTO BY MICHAEL BETTINGER

## CSZ Members' Homes Burn

None of us can forget the perils of last October's conflagration and the devastation that resulted. Two CSZ families lost their homes that day and are courageously struggling to rebuild their lives. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Susan Morton, Marguerite McIntyre, and their 14-month-old daughter Raphaela McIntyre-Morton, and to Fred Hertz and his lover Randolph. Our synagogue, through our Membership Committee, is reaching out to these families; information on how you can help follows.

Susan, Marguerite, and Raphaela are renting a house in Oakland and plan to slowly replace many of the necessities they lost in the fire. They would welcome toys and clothes (size 18 months +) for Raphaela, and will be sure to pass them along to other children as she grows out of them.

Fred and Randolph, who have relocated to a furnished apartment in Emeryville, lost an extensive collection of kitchen items which they hope to re-

(Continued on page 5)

## December Dilemma

CSZ will sponsor a discussion for interfaith couples on how we cope with the "holidays," from 2 to 4 pm on Sunday, December 15. Christmas is omnipresent in our culture, and many Jews feel excluded at this time of year by the constant reminders that we do not celebrate this mainstream American holiday. For Jews in interfaith relationships, Christmas may present a special source of anguish and distance from our non-Jewish partners. And non-Jewish partners may feel excluded from their Jewish partners' family celebrations. Or this time of year may provide a source of improved communication and sharing of our differing heritages.

Whatever your personal experience has been, please join Michael Bettinger, who will facilitate a discussion on the "December Dilemma" in the CSZ library. Noshes will be provided. For additional information, contact Lisa Katz at 821-7746.

## Our Xmas Effort For Open Hand

Sha'ar Zahav members and friends in the Bay Area Jewish community will once again (our fourth year) participate in a volunteer effort on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Cooking, packaging and delivering meals and groceries to relieve some of the regulars who will be taking a well-deserved holiday, we also will be supplementing Open Hand's staffing by packaging and delivering gifts for Christmas.

Sponsored by our Bikkur Cholim committee and the AIDS Project of Jewish Family and Children's Services, this event has been very successful in the past and personally rewarding for all who contributed a few hours of their time.

You must sign up by December 12 to participate in this effort. A sign-up form is included in this issue. I will be working with Rachel Kesselman of JFCS to fill the 250 volunteer slots this year. You will receive a confirmation in the mail after you sign up.

Project Open Hand serves over 1,800 clients with AIDS every day in San Francisco and the East Bay. Many of our members and friends are benefiting from this wonderful service. PWAs are assured of a hot meal daily and caregivers are spared from being stretched beyond their limits. (My late lover and I were extremely grateful for this support.)

Because Open Hand needs volunteers 365 days a year, I will be forming and coor-

(Continued  
on page 5)



Remember the Chanukah Party December 7!

## Interfaith December Holidays

December is always a month that brings me mixed emotions. I look forward to the change of pace at the schools where I work, the heightened excitement of the children, and the anticipation of the winter vacation that will provide a respite from the activity and tension that characterizes the first part of the school year. On the other hand, I am one who should probably live year round in spring or summer. I don't like short, chilly days, and find it hard to get mobilized to do much in December.

As a Jew I find it even more difficult to connect with the festivities of the season. I tend to avoid downtown after Thanksgiving and usually save my greeting cards for the last minute. I even resent, in part, the "Christmasizing" of Chanukah. Yet that holiday, with its glowing lights, symbolizes for me the light and brightness that I both mentally and physically crave at this time of year. I am always relieved when, as this year, Chanukah and Christmas do not overlap, and I can enjoy Chanukah on its own terms.

My experience of December is complicated because my lover is not Jewish. Gary has always been wonderfully supportive of my Jewish observances and synagogue activities, so I try to support him during the Christmas season. He likes to have an annual Christmas Day open house for friends and, of course, a big Christmas tree to reach to our high Victorian ceiling. I join him at midnight Mass at Trinity Episcopal Church (where I never fail to see a few other Sha'ar Zahav members). It was not easy for me to do this at first, and I still struggle with feelings ranging from outsider to traitor. Each year it gets a little easier as I recognize that love and commitment require support and compromise, and that being with my lover on an important religious day does not make me less of a Jew.

The larger issue here is one of outreach, to all of our wider Sha'ar Zahav family. Recently our board member, Lisa Katz, and I attended a UAHC regional workshop on outreach to non-Jewish partners of synagogue members. We learned how other Reform synagogues are trying to be more inclusive of interfaith couples. Sha'ar Zahav is certainly no different. Many of our members have

non-Jewish partners. Some are very closely involved in CSZ activities, others only peripheral, and still others may want little or nothing to do with CSZ. Lisa and I are hoping to set up some initial programming for interfaith couples at Sha'ar Zahav. December is the perfect month to begin an exploration and a dialogue about the needs of this group of Sha'ar Zahav members. As gay and lesbian people, we have found that being on the outside is very painful. For that reason alone, we, the leadership of Sha'ar Zahav, must make every effort to provide an atmosphere and activities of inclusiveness for our members and their non-Jewish partners. We all can only be enriched by such inclusiveness.

I wish all of you a very happy Chanukah!

—Allan Gold

## Saturday Morning Prayers

CSZ inaugurated a new tradition on November 9—a Saturday morning family service. One goal of these services is to provide an introduction to our liturgy for younger children in the congregation. Another goal is to develop the participation and eventual leadership of the Kadimah students, several of whom introduced the prayers. These services are also a chance for members to get to know Kadimah students and younger children.

A highlight of the service was the introduction to the *Sh'ma* by members of the Alef-Bet class, who had drawn pictures representing their ideas about God. Several children conveyed their sense that God is everywhere, in everyone and everything. For one child, "God is a blanket over the universe."

Besides song and prayer, the service included a general discussion of what it means to be holy with God. For the sermon, Rabbi Kahn read a story about a *kvetch* who saw her dissatisfactions in a new light, thanks to the intervention of an angel.

You may see *our traditions* in a new light by listening to the fresh perspective of our children. Everyone is invited to attend the next family service at 10:30 am on January 4.

## Post-Chanukah Potluck

The October Havdalah/potluck in the East Bay drew such a large and convivial crowd (and such great food), we've decided to do it again ... and again. The next Women's Chavurah gathering will be in San Francisco, at Susan Stahl's home, 801 Corbett Ave. #9, in San Francisco, on December 14, at 6 pm. At that time, we'll firm up plans for the not-to-be-missed Women's Chavurah bowling night, and for other diversions.

Don't miss the fun. Call Susan if you need directions: (415) 550-1758. If your last name begins with A-H, please bring a main dish; I-P, a dessert; and Q-Z, a side dish or salad.

**The Jewish Gaily Forward** is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$18/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

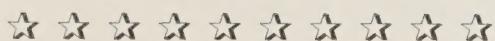
All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard Blechman, chair, Matthew Abergel, Leonard Brill, Ellen Murland, Irene Ogas, Alita Rosenfeld, and Lane Schickler (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Merry Luskin, Sam Thal, Lin Turner, Eli Weinstein and Ron Wilmot (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.



## Birthdays

2 Thomas Yazman  
 4 Paul Quin  
 6 Mercedes Grace Laurencin  
 6 Linda Joy Hanely  
 7 Debbi Jacobs  
 8 George Lucas  
 8 Merry Luskin  
 9 Susan Greenwald  
 10 Sonia Diana Douglass  
 12 Lane Schickler  
 12 Walter Leiss  
 12 Willia S. Goldstein  
 14 Jill Rose  
 15 Philip Charney  
 15 Ron Lezell  
 18 Ethan Tobias Ubell  
 19 Donald W. Albert  
 19 David Shaber  
 20 Hannah Jae Cohen-Blair  
 20 Michele Marie Sullivan  
 23 Evan Kuluk  
 23 Daniel Alexander Rosenfeld-  
 Sharp  
 24 Ellen Kugler  
 25 G'dali Braverman  
 26 Jose Luis Moscovich  
 29 Susan Valerie Gelmis  
 29 David Emmanuel Masson  
 30 Stanley Kern  
 31 Sam Thal

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## Office Notes

"Ch ... Ch ... Ch ... Changes ..." as David Bowie once said. The office has undergone changes in the recent past. As many of you know, we have a new office and rabbi secretary—Jim Cotant—a recent arrival from Michigan. When you call the office, introduce yourself to Jim; he is gradually learning everybody's name.

As you read this, the synagogue is implementing its new database system, RBase, a very powerful, user-friendly relational database system. Many thanks to Ann Bauman for all the time she has given for its implementation.

The combination of RBase and Jim will ensure the continuing level of service you have come to expect from our office.

On a needier note, on top of our wish list sits a fax machine. A day doesn't go by that someone doesn't ask, "What's your fax number?" If you have a fax or know of someone who wants to donate one, please let us know immediately.

## Tenderloin Shabbat

The Social Action Committee will sponsor a Tenderloin Oneg Shabbat luncheon on Friday, January 17. The Shabbat luncheon and program for Jewish residents of the Tenderloin area will take place at the North of Market Senior Center, 333 Turk St., from 1:45 to 4 pm. CSZ members will set up and serve, and will shmooze with the guests. The Tenderloin Jewish Outreach project is a program of Jewish Family and Children's Service. For further information and/or to volunteer for this mitzvah, please call Susan Foster at 285-4747.

## Oneg Sponsors

During November, the following generous people sponsored onegs:

- 11/8 Sponsored by an anonymous couple in honor of the fourth anniversary of their kiddushin
- 11/15 Sponsored by CSZ in honor of the Bikkur Cholim Committee
- 11/22 Sponsored by the Israel Chavurah in honor of Anna and Meir Azari

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

## Library Notes

It's time to curl up with a book for these long December nights. Have you ever wondered about the philosophy of Buber, Heschel, Maimonides, or Wiesel? Are you fuzzy about the history of Israel when defending Israel's position? Do you need to know more about our holidays and how to celebrate them? Are you interested in the Bible as literature, Jewish and Yiddish literature, the Holocaust, Jewish music, or Jewish attitudes toward death and mourning?

Our library probably has everything that you ever wanted to know about all of these subjects (maybe *more* than you ever wanted to know). Check out a book with our easy self-checkout system before services on Friday nights or any time the office is open. The library is there for all of our members.

—Ed Tanovitz



Looking for a mind-altering experience?

## Twice Blessed: On Being Lesbian, Gay and Jewish

is now available in paperback.

The Sha'ar Zahav gift shop sold out of all the hardback copies and is now happy to make the paperback edition available at a reduced price to the congregation. It will be available at the low price of

**\$12<sup>00</sup>**

**That's \$2.95 off the cover price!**

You can purchase your copy from the gift shop or order by mail.

To place your order by mail, please enclose a check with the form below and return it to:

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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Dedication × 2

**C**hanukah is very "early" this year; on the other hand, have you ever known the Jewish holidays to be "on time"? They are always occurring too "something" for our lives. This language we use indicates to me how the majority's culture dominates our world; from the perspective of the Jewish calendar, Chanukah is always exactly on time, the 25th day of Kislev, while it is the Gregorian calendar which moves relative to it.

*One of the consequences of the proximity of Chanukah to the Christmas season has been the transformation of our holiday into a referendum on Jewish identity. How we observe our own holiday and the degree to which we participate in others' has become a battlefield for our communal and individual conflicts around identity, loyalty and assimilation. I do not intend to minimize the reality or depth of feelings these issues raise; however, I also do not want to lose sight of the underlying meaning of Chanukah.*

*For myself, the meaning of Chanukah is contained in its name, which means "dedication." The altar having been torn down and desecrated, the Jewish people fought a war of "national liberation" to reclaim their sovereignty and to restore the Temple. Having succeeded in gaining the political and economic power to control and shape their national future, their first task was an act of dedication. Over and over, Judaism asks us to examine our commitments and priorities and to rededicate ourselves to those which are sources of light. Al Vorspan, the retiring vice-president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, spoke at the UAH Convention last month in Baltimore about how, as Reform Jews, we should dedicate our lives:*

Let us invest in children, in human beings, in the quality of the environment, in the life of the mind, in the enhancement of culture, and the enrichment of human life. My friends, no religious tradition is as intoxicated with this world, as seized with the mission of social justice, and as determined to create a better world as the one that brings us (together in the Reform movement).

In the words of a Jewish woman, a social activist in California: "Most people in our world live heroic lives merely trying to survive for one more day. They are powerless to evoke change, let alone help others. That is why I feel so strongly that those of us who can make things better must do so. And if we don't, we

are depriving ourselves of perhaps the greatest opportunity life can offer—to help change the world, and, in turn, to give true meaning to our lives."

In recent years, the tendency in Jewish life has been to turn inward and to magnify the characteristic of chutzpah—calling on us to stand up for Jewish interests and not to give too much of a damn about our neighbors. Some argue that our mistake is that we are not assertive enough. I do not believe that this is our problem. We stand against presidents, cardinals, senators, popes, generals, and leaders of all racial and ethnic groups and we make no apologies to anybody.

One of our problems is the opposite: extremists and demagogues are crowding out universal Jewish values by dominating the media and polarizing our community. Our problem, in my view, is that we are losing faith in our capacity to make a difference to the world, that we are losing that wondrous Jewish empathy which helped us to understand the heart of the stranger, that we are forgetting that Judaism has something special, beyond angry tribalism, to say to such a time as this.

The late Abraham Joshua Heschel once reminded us that "our task in the darkest night is to be certain of the

dawn—certain of the power to turn darkness into light, agony into song." We dare not forget who we are and why we are here. God did not summon us to be champions of chutzpah, all elbows, muscle and noise and so filled with ourselves that we are deaf to an aching world. A person wrapped up in himself constitutes the smallest package in the world. It is the same with people. We are a great people when we insure our own survival without isolating ourselves from the needs of humanity. When the prophets asked what does the Lord require of us, they didn't answer: to do chutzpah, to love publicity, and to walk arrogantly by ourselves!

A living Judaism can help fill the deep moral void of our time; help replace empty political slogans with a deeper human connection; help keep human beings human in an age of technology, greed and militarism. We are easy to caricature, as bleeding hearts and red-hot angels of justice, but we are people who are driven by Jewish values to care for the lonely, the weak, the poor, the illiterate, the disabled and the dispossessed because they too are God's children and we are God's partners in building a better, more peaceful world."

*May your Chanukah be filled with light.*  
—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

### New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members and friends in November. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Louise Fischer  
Janis ("Jan") Medina  
Nina Kaiser and Nora Klimist,  
Kellen Kaiser and  
Ethan A. Kaiser-Klimist  
Robert Sterman  
Nina Wouk and Jessie Ap'neva  
Arthur Slepian

We're grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

### Education Nights

The Adult Education Committee hopes that those of you who joined us for our fall line-up of classes enjoyed them and found them useful. We would now like to share a "sneak preview" of our spring line-up with you and the rest of the congregation.

Beginning January 28, Rabbi Kahn will offer the first of two consecutive classes on how to lead a successful Friday night service. The first—How To Lead a Friday Night Service—will last five weeks. The second—How To Prepare a Drash—begins in March.

Also beginning on March 28, Phyllis Mintzer will offer two courses—a continuation of Introduction to Judaism, and an intermediate course in prayerbook Hebrew.

January's *Forward* will have a more complete schedule.

## Dues Committee Duly Noted

One of the precepts of Maimonides states: "Every Jewish community must appoint collectors of *tzedakah*, who are trustworthy people, to go about the people taking from everyone what they can afford to give or what they are assessed."

In this spirit of *tzedakah*, CSZ membership voted last January to approve a new dues structure and policy. Bylaws were drafted that defined procedures for establishing a Dues Committee whose responsibility is "to implement the congregational dues policy regarding dues pledges, dues collection and the consequences of a member's failure to comply with the congregational dues policy."

Seven CSZ members were appointed by the president and approved by the Va'ad to serve on the Dues Committee. The members are David Stein and Ron Lezell (co-chairs), Roslyn Fuerman, Lisa Katz, Nancy Meyer, Judy Schwartz, and Brett Trueman.

The mission of the committee is to effectively implement the new dues policy with sensitivity and understanding, while promoting fairness and congruence between income and dues contributions. Committee members review all dues pledges, and "may deny or terminate membership as a result of a member's inappropriate dues pledge." All dues information is kept strictly confidential within the Dues Committee, and committee members are always available to speak with congregants who feel their special circumstances may require a dues reduction.

The Dues Committee meets regularly, and over the past several months has accomplished the following:

### Homes Burn

*Continued from page 1*  
place over time. The synagogue has organized a "silent kitchen shower," with a long list of small appliances, gadgets, and basic utensils they need.

If you would like to contribute to the synagogue's efforts to assist these families, you may make a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Please note on your check that it is for fire relief. Alternatively, if you would like to purchase something yourself, please call Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines at (510) 532-9661 for a list of specific needs and to arrange for delivery.

- Reviewed materials from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations regarding dues and membership issues, and met with two outside consultants who successfully implemented a new dues structure at their UAHC congregation;

- Wrote dues education letters to current and prospective members, advising them of new guidelines and policies;

- Followed up with members whose 1991-92 dues pledge forms were late, to encourage them to renew membership;

- Established consistent criteria for granting dues reductions on an as-needed basis;

- Considered special requests of members with dues problems regarding High Holiday tickets;

- Developed an approach to evaluating members' pledges, first reviewing pledges of Dues Committee members, the Va'ad, and committee chairs; and

- Issued dues statements to members and oversaw the dues collection process.

We are happy to report that the majority of our members responded positively to the new dues policy. Treasurer Brett Trueman projects that we will end this year "in the black"—a welcome improvement over last year's budget deficit and need for special assessment.

The survival of our very special synagogue depends on each member's fair share contribution through the dues program. Even so, the policy is not meant to exclude from membership those with special financial needs. Congregants are urged to call the office and be referred to a Dues Committee member if you have any questions, problems, or concerns regarding your dues.



### Anniversaries

- 1 Nancy Wecker & Lisa Wennenberg
- 6 Susan Beth Fraimow-Wong & Linda Fraimow-Wong
- 7 Jay Davidson & Tom Hartland
- 14 Shelley R. Spiro & Gabriele Kassner
- 17 Amy Weston & Bonnie Bishop
- 28 Susan Weinstein & Shelley Adler
- 31 Steven & Florence Nacamulli



## Chevrat 'Or

If you are planning a vacation to Palm Springs this winter, we invite you to spend your Shabbat with us at Chevrat 'Or. We are a newly established worship circle with an outreach to the gay and lesbian community and we welcome visitors to participate. We hold services on the fourth Friday of each month. Our December service will be led by visiting Rabbi Denise Eger of Congregation Beth Chayim Chadashim, Los Angeles. For information call Andy Linsky, (619) 323-2455, or Jerry Sacks, (619) 321-5422.

## Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** 1989 VW Cabriolet convertible. White with all white leather interior. Showroom condition—all maintenance records in order. 26,000 miles. \$11,500. Call Pam, 648-7828.

**ROOMMATE WANTED** to share two-bedroom condo on Duboce near Valencia with gay male CSZ member. Dishwasher, laundry room. \$485 plus ½ utilities. Lane Schickler. 255-9679

## Open Hand

*Continued from page 1*  
inating a Sha'ar Zahav contingent to take over regular delivery routes. If you are interested in supporting Open Hand once a month or even just a few times a year, please check the last box on the sign-up sheet.

If you misplaced the sign-up sheet or have any questions, please call me at (415) 255-9679.

—Lane Schickler

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## A Year of Loss

In an effort to present the loss to the congregation in a tangible way, we present obituaries for the 12 members who died these past 12 months.

### Walter Palmer

December 30, 1946 – December 21, 1990

Walter Palmer, who died last December, was a life-long resident of San Francisco and Orinda. A successful entrepreneur and real estate developer, Walter was blessed with energy, wit, intelligence, and zest for life. He tackled every project he undertook with full commitment, and his resulting legacy is a number of tasteful and unique homes. Walter was an ardent supporter of several AIDS service organizations and a member and faithful friend of Sha'ar Zahav.

### Marvin Henry Steele

September 18, 1932 – March 31, 1991

Marvin Steele died on the second day of Passover after living with AIDS for several years. A man of great gentleness, Marvin was beloved of those who knew him—especially his mother and his lover, Rudy Bean, with whom he enjoyed 29 wonderful years. Rudy and Marvin enjoyed traveling together to far-off countries or to the mountains. When his health did not allow him to travel as he once did, Marvin could still take pleasure in the beauty around him—going for a drive down Highway 1 and stopping in at the Pacifica Taco Bell which had, he believed, the best view of any fast food restaurant in the world. Marvin's humor, appreciation for beauty and love will be missed by the many whose lives he touched.

### Jim Perkins

July 19, 1954 – May 21, 1991

Jim Perkins died at home with his lover of seven years, Lane Schickler, beside him. Jim delighted in life's pleasures, especially eating and traveling. High points of his life were his trips to Italy. Although losing his sight was a painful loss, he never lost his insight into others or his special ability to draw people out. Jim's greatest love was his love for people. He was a great listener. He was beloved of his own and Lane's families. He kept up his friendships over time and distance and his special friends came to see him before his death. Notes on

*Love and Courage* was a book he read which, along with Lane, he could have written. Jim had a rich fantasy life—he was happy to have adventures in his mind (although he truly would have liked Elizabeth Taylor to drop in just once to the infusion center while he was there). He had a zest for life and took to heart the Bible's injunction: "Now therefore, choose life!"

### Alex Konski

September 1, 1947 – July 9, 1991

Alex died this past summer after living with ARC since 1981 and AIDS since 1987. Before retiring, he worked for 20 years in corporate management with a variety of firms, most recently with Gillette. He enjoyed his years on disability supporting and socializing with his many friends, volunteering at the Coming Home Hospice and other AIDS causes, and reading and talking on the phone. He found peace and comfort in his home, on Alamo Square, in his faith, and especially at Friday night Shabbat services at our synagogue.

### Seth Miller

July 30, 1961 – July 25, 1991

Seth Miller died at Davies Hospital last July. He was, by his own account, a "loud, pushy Jewish queer." His friends put up with his *meshugas* for two reasons: He was so much fun, and more importantly, he had a heart of gold. His homes away from home were the Cafe Flore and the Stud. When he celebrated his 21st birthday at the Stud, he already knew everyone in the house. Being around Seth was special; he had a way of making each person feel welcome. A computer whiz, he gave generously of his time, skills and resources to people and groups he cared about. A lover of the outdoors, he rode in the AIDS Bike-a-thon for several years. Even from his hospital bed, he turned his unique style of telemarketing to work, raising over \$700 for the 1991 AIDS Walk. Seth lived his illness and his death with the same style, the same determination, and the same confidence with which he did everything else.

### Phil Resnick

October 18, 1960 – August 2, 1991

Phil died away from the Bay Area, in Los Angeles. A wonderful friend, he

would do anything for his friends or his family. He was always ready to help, to talk with, or to listen. A wonderful gardener, he brought beauty to outdoor spaces. He loved being outdoors, bicycling, climbing running in the Bay-to-Breakers or just sitting by the ocean. In his will he wrote: "I love you all very much. Think of me and smile. I'll be smiling back." Those who knew him sense that smile yet.

### Ernie Weinstein

June 6, 1950 – August 5, 1991

Ernie died at his home last August. A caring person, a gathering person—connecting with everyone he met and linking people together—Ernie introduced his neighbors to each other and was "adopted" by several of the long-term residents of the street. He was a fiercely loyal friend, staying in tough and nurturing relationships, despite the separations of time and distance. Ernie loved to cook and to entertain; he was happiest as a *balabusta*—an old fashioned Jewish homemaker. A successful attorney, Ernie loved to travel. Whenever he wasn't actually *on* a trip, he was planning one. Traveling to new places satisfied his life-long curiosity. Born with a generous soul and an inordinate amount of chutzpah, he made friends and connections wherever he went and always traveled in grand style. His home was filled with photos of his travels and his beloved friends and family, including his devoted lover, Scott Feinstein. Scott and Ernie enjoyed six wonderful years together, each one bringing out the best in the other.

### Bill Schlichter

July 10, 1942 – August 23, 1991

Bill Schlichter died last August at Davies Hospital. Always searching, Bill spent his last weeks studying and exploring the mysteries of God and the soul. He found strength in Torah and other teachings, like the passage from *Living Each Day*: "Where logic ends, faith begins. We must be aware that unless there were a divine purpose to our lives, we would not be here. We may have to seek out that purpose, but it is certainly there." Bill was moved by beauty and the great gifts of the spirit, especially architecture and music. He loved to listen to liturgical music, from many

## A Year of Loss

traditions, as well as classical music. He found his calling as a *chazan*, a cantor in our congregation. He labored for hours, meticulously transcribing music, listening to tapes, and puzzling out the Hebrew. Standing on the bimah in his *kittel* and tallis at High Holidays, his commitment and passion filled the room. Even when his strength was failing, he worked very hard to fulfill the commitments he had made and was always very pained if he had to give one up. He gave deeply of himself, and in turn was the beneficiary of boundless quantities of food, affection, love and faith from the beloved friends at CSZ who were his family.

### Jay Feinstein

June 29, 1945 – August 29, 1991

Longtime CSZ member Jay Feinstein died in August. Jay was a person of strong opinions and strong judgments. He was engaged in a relentless search for truth and did not hold back from sharing his insights with anyone. He had high expectations of himself, his friends, and organizations with which he was involved. A hospital planner for many years, he brought his organizational skills to the CSZ Va'ad, the Shanti Project where he was a longtime volunteer, and to the SF Suicide Prevention AIDS Nightline, which he founded and organized. He had a special place in his heart for children and will be sorely missed by several young friends who were especially beloved to him. He shared his life for the last seven years with Bob Goldware and will be remembered fondly by him and many others.

### Frank Hyman

August 23, 1944 – September 13, 1991

Frank died with his lover, Ron Wilmet, beside him. At his death, he was surrounded by close friends and family who had flown in from the East Coast to be with him. Frank was devoted to his friends, family, work, and dogs. A dedicated, generous man, he dealt with life and everyone he touched with no-nonsense honesty and goodness. Born in Wilkes Barre, Pa., he came to the Bay Area as a special education teacher in 1967. He moved into the human resources field in 1968, most recently serving as director of human resources for American Express. An active sup-

porter of CSZ for many years, he coordinated High Holidays, hosted years of envelope stuffing and mailing parties for the *Forward*, and coordinated our congregation's monthly brunches at Kaiser Hospital. He also served on the boards of SAGA, the SF Chamber of Commerce, Johns Hopkins University and the SF School District.

### Jeffrey Miller

December 30, 1953 – October 6, 1991

Jeffrey Miller, Va'ad member and chair of our Building Committee, died two months ago. The youngest son in a family of talkers, Jeff's deepest language of action and affection was the work of his hands. He showed his affection for others by quietly holding hands or through a gift of his work; his devotion to our synagogue can be seen not only in the plaques on the wall but in the screws that hold them to the wall, in the wiring door handles and fixtures, and hundreds of other details which he systematically repaired and struck off his list.

Jeffrey worked for many years as a social worker before going back to school to study electronics. He loved his work and received numerous awards from his

employer, Scantron. After his retirement, he gave of his skills and commitment to the Market Street Trolley Festival, to the Sierra Club, clearing and maintaining trails, and especially as a volunteer, project coordinator, office helper, building chair and Va'ad member of Sha'ar Zahav.

Jeffrey was sustained through his illness by the love and support of many members of our congregation, his friends, his parents, and especially his beloved friend Mark Pressler.

### Duane Puryear

December 20, 1964 – October 8, 1991

Duane died in St. Louis in October. Over the last three years, Duane moved back and forth between San Francisco and St. Louis as his health allowed. He loved San Francisco and always felt that he gained new strength when he arrived here. He found a spiritual home in Judaism and with us at Sha'ar Zahav. Duane was a devoted volunteer every week for the first year of our Religious School, sharing his enthusiasm, creativity and warmth with our children.

May their memory be for a blessing.

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# CSZ at Baltimore Biennial

The chair of the New Congregations Committee smiled as he addressed the UAHC Board of Trustees. "It's with special pleasure that I propose the admission of Congregation Chevrei Tikva of Cleveland to the Union," he said. "This will be the sixth synagogue with a special outreach to gay and lesbian Jews welcomed to our movement of Reform Judaism. More than these congregations need us, we need them." The vote was unanimous. *Baruch ha ba* to our latest sibling congregation! May this "Community of Hope" go from strength to strength.

The vote was one of the highlights of the biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which was held in Baltimore October 30 through November 4. Seven members of Sha'ar Zahav attended, making us the largest delegation from Northern California. We often are the largest at these gatherings, proving again how strong is Sha'ar Zahav's commitment—and indeed, the commitment of all the "outreach congregations"—to Reform Judaism and the Jewish people. No wonder they welcome us so warmly.

The five days in Baltimore were filled with learning, debating, and teaching. Together we celebrated Shabbat, singing the traditional and the new songs of our faith and our people. We renewed old friendships and made new ones from among the 4,500 delegates and their families. The 50-plus gay and lesbian delegates, cantors, rabbis, educators, and their friends met for dinner and an evening party, and "did brunch" together. These events were organized by CSZ member Andy Rose, who now lives in Baltimore.

The agenda of the convention was incredibly full. We discussed reproductive freedom, universal health insurance, lasting peace in the Middle East, pay equity for women, feeding the homeless—and AIDS. We searched for ways to make God real in our synagogues, our families, and our lives; and reaffirmed our welcome to those who were not born Jewish, but who have found a spiritual home in Judaism.

I shared a panel on "Jewish Perspectives on War" with an Israeli Reform rabbi who was a tank commander in the

1956 Sinai campaign. Having been a Navy doc in Vietnam, I found it moving to compare experiences and feelings with a fellow Jew who was also a veteran. We agreed that none are more opposed to war than those who have fought in one.

When the panel was over, the rabbi told me this story. He was doing graduate work in the Bay Area a few years ago, and though he considered himself a "parlor homophobe," he decided to come to Sha'ar Zahav one Shabbat. He worshipped with us the following Shabbat also, and the one after that. "It was a transforming experience," he said. "Please tell members of Sha'ar Zahav that when they are in Jerusalem, I would be honored if they would worship with us at my synagogue, Har El. I will welcome them with open arms." Message delivered.

UAHC Vice President Al Vorspan gave his usual powerful and inspiring keynote address. But there was a tinge of sadness as well, for this was Al's valedictory. This wonderful man, this "conscience of Reform Judaism," who taught generations of Jews not only the necessity of mending the world, but ways of doing it, is retiring. How we will miss him! One of his "students," Rabbi Eric Yoffie, will take his place. Eric has been a good friend to our community, and has done an outstanding job as director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA). I'm delighted that he was selected.

Our national UAHC AIDS Committee met all day Thursday, the first day of the conference. We're appalled at the lack of leadership in the fight against AIDS in the Congress and the White House. Letters and resolutions aren't getting our elected officials' attention. So in May we will meet at the UAHC Religious Action Center in Washington to lobby in person. Jesse Helms, John Sununu—could a million and a half Reform Jews have a word with you? Perhaps the personal approach will work where letters and telegrams and marches have not. God knows something must.

The first UAHC workshop on Judaism and homosexuality was held at the L.A.

(Continued on next page)

## Another View

It was an honor to serve as one of the CSZ delegates to the 61st General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the national (and Canadian) Reform body. There were many highlights to this action-packed four-day Biennial in Baltimore, even without being party to all the behind-the-scenes committee and board meetings. There were wall-to-wall workshops, plenary sessions, and informal get-togethers and one of the drawbacks was not being able to partake in all of them.

Personal highlights included the thrill of Friday night services attended by 5,000 or more people—3,000 delegates, their significant others, and congregants from the four Baltimore Reform congregations which had closed their own synagogues for the weekend. At least the English of the siddur was degenderized and there was magnificent music from cantors and the cantorial students from Jewish Theological Seminary.

A workshop on understanding gays and lesbians, chaired by our Mike Rankin, was crowded with delegates from the National Federation of Temple Youth and many other discussions of gays and lesbians advanced the consciousness-raising agenda and illustrated dramatically the influence that Sha'ar Zahav and our sibling congregations have had on the UAHC. Andy Rose helped arrange a brunch caucus of gay and lesbian delegates, rabbis and cantors. Everywhere we went, people would say, "Oh, I know so-and-so from your congregation, oh, I know your rabbi," and so on.

On a personal note, Dan Chesir, a fellow CSZ delegate, managed to find and introduce me to the only delegate from Temple Adath Joseph in St. Joseph, Mo. (my home town), a gentleman in his 90s who talked about the decline of Jewry in St. Joe.

The 1993 Biennial will be in San Francisco, and I hope that many members of the congregation will register and attend. It's an education, it's fun, and it makes you even prouder to be gay or lesbian and Jewish.

—Betty Kalis

## Baltimore Biennial

*Continued from previous page*

Biennial in 1985. It was an historic breakthrough, and we've repeated the panel at all subsequent biennials. This time, in Baltimore, we called it "Toward a Greater Understanding of Our Gay and Lesbian Sisters, Brothers, Rabbis, and Cantors." As usual, there was standing room only. I've chaired all four workshops, and I always begin with a slide show of "A Year in the Life of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav." It forces the audience to see us from the beginning as women and men who celebrate their Jewishness and their lives as lesbians and gays, beautifully integrating the two. Those who've been at all the workshops still enjoy the slides, especially the ones that show us observing *Tashlich* after Rosh Hashanah, casting our bread upon the waters of San Francisco Bay, beneath the Golden Gate Bridge. And they love the pictures of us marching down Market Street on Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day, dancing our horas and singing *Hinei Ma Tov!* The slides have a powerful

effect on those gay and lesbian Jews and their families who come to the sessions for the first time, believing they are "all alone out there." The workshops are for them above all. They arrive as strangers, but they leave as part of a joyful community, never again to think of themselves as the only gay or lesbian Jews, or the families of such Jews, in Itta Bena, Mississippi.

Panelists for this workshop included Rabbi Denise Eger of Beth Chadishim Congregation in Los Angeles, who spoke of her life as an openly lesbian rabbi among rabbis. Cantor David Serkin-Poole of Seattle movingly recounted his coming out to his very supportive mainstream congregation. David and his life partner Michael were the first to adopt a child, Gene, as a gay couple in the state of Washington, though a number of individual lesbians and gays have adopted children. David, Michael, and Gene are accepted by their synagogue as the loving Jewish family they are.

Social worker and Reform Jewish leader Agnes Herman was our third panelist. She described her own "coming out" as the mother of a gay son, and of her attempts to help other parents move from shock and rejection to warm embrace of their gay and lesbian children. Agnes ended her presentation with an anonymous poem from the newsletter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). When the poem was over, the room remained quiet for a long moment. It touched us deeply, and I thought it should be shared with all who read the *Forward*:

### *What Really Matters*

"My parents asked if I'm gay,  
I said does it matter,  
They said not really,  
I told them yes I'm gay,  
They said get out of our lives,  
I guess it mattered.  
My boss said are you gay,  
I said does it matter,  
My boss said not really,  
I told my boss I'm gay  
My boss said you're fired, queer,  
I guess it mattered.  
My friend asked if I'm gay,  
I said does it matter,  
My friend said no, not really,  
I told my friend yes I'm gay,  
My friend said don't call me friend,  
I guess it mattered.  
My lover said do you love me,  
I said does it matter,  
My lover said yes,  
I told my lover yes, I love you,  
My lover said hold me in your arms,  
For the first time something  
in my life matters.  
God asked do you love yourself,  
I said does it matter,  
God said yes.  
I said how can I love myself  
if I am gay  
God said because that is the way I made you.  
That is all that matters!"

## "I Start by Listening"

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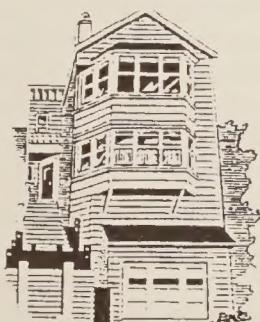


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I thought of Agnes' poem when I saw the election returns from Concord. And somehow it helped.

The next Biennial is in October 1993—in San Francisco! There'll be many opportunities to be involved. I'll keep you posted.

—Mike Rankin

## November Va'ad Report

Rabbi Kahn opened the meeting with a *d'var torah* based on a paragraph written by Martin Buber. Buber says, "Genuine responsibility exists only where there is real responding," implying, in the rabbi's words, that "to be alive is to be responsive." Buber continues, "Each concrete hour allotted to the person, with its content drawn from the world and from destiny, is a speech for the man who is attentive." Each hour gives us opportunities to be responsive. If we are open to our Jewishness, to the other aspects of our destiny, and to our world, that is a beginning; through this attentiveness, we will hear our call to responsibility.

President Allan Gold asked for Va'ad approval of the appointment of Gail Friedlander to fill the Va'ad seat left vacant by Jeffrey Miller's death. The motion passed unanimously.

Brett Trueman, treasurer, reviewed the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding investment of surplus funds. Given the current interest rate environment, the committee thinks it prudent to pay off our mortgage, and to invest other synagogue funds in a combination of intermediate-term U.S. Government securities and short-term money market funds. This should enable us to enhance the income on our invested funds at a very minimal risk. Brett pointed out that we would save approximately \$2,000 a year by paying off the mortgage, based on current interest rates. After some discussion (focused on the importance of maintaining flexibility in case of further interest rate fluctuations), the Va'ad approved these recommendations.

Judy Schwartz, Membership Committee chair, presented four individuals and two families as new members to Sha'ar Zahav and the Va'ad approved them for membership. Judy also reported on two member families who lost their homes in the Oakland fire. Judy suggested that the Va'ad, on behalf of the board and the rabbi, purchase for each family a set of shabbat candlesticks and candles, a Chanukah menorah and candles, a CSZ cookbook, a kiddish cup, and a mezuzah. (See Judy's article on page 1 on how to help these families.)

Mike Rankin reported on the Biennial Convention of the UAHC, in which seven members of Sha'ar Zahav—the largest delegation from the West Coast—participated. Mike emphasized how much the

UAHC has improved in recent years with regard to gay and lesbian rights. He gave the example of a homophobic discussion of Leviticus 18 which is part of an old version of commentaries sent to those who help prepare bar/bat mitzvah students. Mike is confident that after he speaks to the appropriate people, the commentaries will be changed, without much debate or foot-dragging. Rabbi Kahn pointed out that if responses to gay and lesbian issues have improved in recent years, it is in large part due to the extraordinary efforts of Mike Rankin. The Va'ad as a whole expressed its appreciation, on behalf of the congregation, for Mike's work. (For more news about the convention, see Mike's article on page 8. See delegate Betty Kalis' article on that page also.)

Last month, Ellen Gierson, Building Committee chair, presented a plan for renovation of our main office. Believing that the renovations will improve office efficiency, comfort, and economy, the Va'ad this month approved the project, stipulating a specific cap on costs. The Va'ad also approved Ellen's suggestion that minor renovations of the rabbi's office be done at the same time. In addition to these renovation projects, Ellen will also begin work on fixing dry rot in the downstairs bathroom.

Robin Leonard, Cookbook Project chair, reported that since December 1989, we have sold 833 cookbooks for which no donation has yet been made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank. She proposed that we make a \$2,500 donation to the Project Open Hand food bank (which has taken over the foundation's food bank), representing our commitment to a contribution of \$3 per book sold. The Va'ad agreed to the proposal.

Ron Lezell, Israel Chavurah chair, reported that more than 30 people have expressed interest in a Sha'ar Zahav trip to Israel, the dates of which were still to be decided. Ron said that the trip is very likely to go ahead, if at least 15 people sign up and if he finds someone to co-chair. The Va'ad endorsed the idea of this congregational trip, which would be led by Rabbi Kahn.

Gail Friedlander announced that she and Shelley Eisenmen are prepared to begin setting up volunteer manuals for the congregation for aid to volunteers, both in planning one-time events and also

for participating in on-going committees. Gail said that while she and Shelley could get the manuals set up, regular updating would be necessary to keep the manuals useful. She wondered how to incorporate this on-going updating into the regular life of the synagogue, and wondered how much office clerical time this would involve and whether such time was available.

Members of the Va'ad thought that writing volunteer manuals is a great idea—it will make it less necessary for each volunteer to "reinvent the wheel" each time he/she plans a program. Gail will investigate the various aspects of the project further, speak to the Leadership Development Committee and to the volunteer coordinator, and report back next month.

Rabbi Kahn reported on the UAHC Convention in Baltimore, calling it "outstanding and inspiring." You will hear more from him about ideas gleaned from the convention. The rabbi announced that our first family Saturday morning service attracted close to 40 people, and was very enjoyable. The Shabbat dinner for people with HIV and their partners was also quite successful; the rabbi plans another dinner and a brunch in the coming months.

A recent request by a chavurah to use our sanctuary for a bar mitzvah ceremony has led the rabbi to rethink our policy regarding the rental of our sanctuary for religious purposes. At present, we make our sanctuary available for secular uses (meetings, etc.) but not for private religious services. Deeming it a mitzvah to support the Jewish community, the Va'ad decided that while we will not rent our sanctuary to private individuals for life-cycle ceremonies, we will rent to bona fide Jewish groups who otherwise do not have a home, with the understanding that such rentals should not conflict with the use of our sanctuary by our members.

President Allan Gold, in his report, asked for a task force to develop a policy with regard to hiring union or non-union labor needed for such projects as the office renovations. Lisa Katz, Tiela Chalmers, and Ellen Gierson volunteered to work on this force. Allan reported that more than 40 people attended the new member potluck; he thanked Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman for host-

(Continued on last page)

# Volunteer of the Month

In a small congregation, one of the most important volunteer jobs is to help operate the synagogue office. Robert Coffman, our honoree for December, has been a dependable and capable support to our professional office staff.

His excellent skills were developed during a long career in which he served as collections manager for both W&J Sloan and Gumps. Robert used his spare time to take evening art classes and enjoyed art so much he went back to school to finish his bachelor's degree in fine arts at the California College of Arts and Crafts. He used his newly developed skills to design packaging for the food services industry.

Originally from Charleston, W.Va.; the Coffmans were a military family. Grade school was in Georgia, followed by high school and college in Ohio. Drafted during the Vietnam War, Robert served six months before receiving a medical discharge. Using only a small part of his \$150 discharge money for a bus to San Francisco, he has made this his home ever since. His decision was made without "even knowing anything about the city or its gay population."



Robert Coffman

Robert joined CSZ three years ago after "feeling comfortable at services" and "knowing he wanted to stay, because it was where he belonged." A strong believer in adult education, he has taken conversational Hebrew at City College and is a regular attendee of our adult classes at the synagogue.

One day, Jenny Heilbrun, our former office manager, called for assistance and every Monday thereafter, Robert was at the office answering phones, performing clerical tasks and helping the synagogue in its day-to-day functioning. He believes that membership in CSZ brings with it an automatic recognition that you will be "doing something to be part of the congregational community."

He regards helping members to attend Shabbat services as "an honor." As a person with AIDS, he is acutely aware

of how difficult it can be to do as much as he would like. But this has not stopped him from volunteering at the Jewish Community Library, and from being one of Rabbi Kahn's most trustworthy volunteers. For Robert, being part of the Jewish family and community is "important and fulfilling."

## Condolences

To Don Albert and Sid Rosenthal on the death of their friend and lover respectively, Bruce Kline.

To Sanford Friedman and Jerry Hipps on the death of their friend, David Neely

To Marianne Camp on the death of her mother, Dorothy

## Synagogue Information

### Rabbi Yoel Kahn

#### Officers:

*President, Allan Gold (929-9524)  
Administrative Vice President,  
Claudia Bernard  
Program Vice President,  
Tiela Chalmers  
Treasurer, Brett Trueman  
Recorder, Kathy Simon*

#### Office Personnel:

*Manager, Mark Pressler  
Secretary, Jim Cotant*

#### Committee Chairs:

*Archivist, Bill Ashley-Dobbin  
Bequests and Donations, Pam Schaffer  
Bikkur Cholim, by committee  
Brotherhood, Eric Keitel  
Building, Ellen Gierson  
Bylaws, Edward Pollock  
Cemetery, Richard Inlander  
Children's Chavurah, Audrey Adelson & Joan Lefkowitz  
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard  
Dues, David Stein & Ron Lezell  
Education, Bill Ashley-Dobbin*

#### Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Charney  
Daniel Chesir  
Steve Elman  
Gail Friedlander  
Lisa Katz  
Ida Kuluk  
Nathan Robinson  
Judy Schwartz  
Susan Unger

*Finance, by committee  
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin  
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell  
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir  
Membership, Judy Schwartz  
Newsletter, Howard Blechman  
Oneg, by committee  
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert  
Personnel, Claudia Bernard  
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky  
Religious School, Mary Morgan & Diana Buchbinder  
Ritual, Larry Wexler  
Social Action, Susan Foster  
Social Program, Marc Mencher  
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard  
Women's Chavurah, Susan Tubbesing*

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

#### Office Hours:

**Mon.–Fri. 9 am–4 pm.**  
**Emergency Number:** In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

**Library Hours:** Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

#### Gift Shop Hours:

**Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm**  
**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Eric Keitel, Liaison).

**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.



# Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

שְׁנַר זָהָב



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כְּסֶלֶת-טִבְתָּה

## DECEMBER

**1** Sunday  
24 Kislev  
**First Night Chanukah**  
• 8pm, Theater party, *Dirty Dreams*

**2** Monday  
25 Kislev  
**Second Night Chanukah**

**3** Tuesday  
26 Kislev  
**Third Night Chanukah**

**4** Wednesday  
27 Kislev  
**Fourth Night Chanukah**

**5** Thursday  
28 Kislev  
**Fifth Night Chanukah**  
• 7:30pm, Children's Education meeting

**6** Friday  
29 Kislev  
**Sixth Night Chanukah**  
• 8:15pm, Shabbat Services, Lyssa Friedman and Steve Weitz

**7** Saturday  
30 Kislev  
**Seventh Night Chanukah**  
• 9:30am, Kadimah  
• 10:30am, Nursing home Chanukah visits  
• 8pm, CSZ Chanukah Party, (children's activities 6:30pm)

**8** Sunday  
1 Tevet  
**Eighth Night Chanukah**

**9** Monday  
2 Tevet  
• 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

**10** Tuesday  
3 Tevet  
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism  
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew

**11** Wednesday  
4 Tevet  
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life  
• 7:30pm, Newsletter editing, 1711 Castro

**12** Thursday  
5 Tevet  
• 7pm, Education Committee meeting

**13** Friday  
6 Tevet  
• 8:15pm, Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn and Josh Lee

**14** Saturday  
7 Tevet  
• 6pm, Women's Chavurah Pot Luck, 801 Corbett Ave. #9, San Francisco  
• 9:30am, Kadimah

**15** Sunday  
8 Tevet  
• 2pm, Interfaith couples meeting, "December Dilemma"

**16** Monday  
9 Tevet

**17** Tuesday  
10 Tevet  
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism  
• 7:30pm, Newsletter proofing/layout, 1711 Castro  
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew

**18** Wednesday  
11 Tevet  
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life

**19** Thursday  
12 Tevet  
• 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting  
• 7:30pm, Ritual Committee meeting

**20** Friday  
13 Tevet  
• 8:15pm, Shabbat Services, Dana Vinicoff and Merry Luskin  
• 8:15pm, East Bay Services, Ida Kuluk

**21** Saturday  
14 Tevet  
• 9:30am, Kadimah

**22** Sunday  
15 Tevet  
• 4-6:30pm, Open Hand volunteer orientation

**23** Monday  
16 Tevet

**24** Tuesday  
17 Tevet  
• Project Open Hand  
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism  
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew

**25** Wednesday  
18 Tevet  
• Project Open Hand  
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life

**26** Thursday  
19 Tevet

**27** Friday  
20 Tevet  
• Bikkur Cholim visit to the Jewish Home for the Aged  
• 8:15pm, Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn and Frank Mason

**28** Saturday  
21 Tevet  
• No Kadimah  
• 10:30am, Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn and Daniel Chesir

**29** Sunday  
22 Tevet  
• 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch

**30** Monday  
23 Tevet

**31** Tuesday  
24 Tevet  
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism  
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew

*Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.*

### #!@ \* &% Computer!

Sorry, due to a computer malfunction, there will be no donation acknowledgment column this month. All donations therefore will be acknowledged in January's newsletter.

### Va'ad Report

*Continued from page 10*  
ing, and Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines for organizing. Allan is looking for someone to chair this year's Purim "Megillah Madness."

After complimenting Allan on run-

ning a "great meeting" with a very long agenda, we laughed at a great joke of Susan Unger's, and adjourned with the singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Kathy Simon, Recorder

# Christmas effort for Project Open Hand

Join Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, the AIDS Project of Jewish Family and Children's Services, and our friends in the Bay Area Jewish community on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for a few hours of performing a wonderful mitzvah.

We will be preparing and delivering meals and gift packages for Project Open Hand's clients.

There are 250 volunteer slots this year in San Francisco and the East Bay (Berkeley, Emeryville and Oakland).

You must sign up by December 12 to participate in this rewarding volunteer effort. Please return this form to:

Lane Schickler  
85 Duboce Ave. #102  
San Francisco, CA 94103

You may call Lane with any questions or to sign up by phone if this form will not reach Lane by December 12: (415) 731-4360 (before November 20) or (415) 255-9679 (after November 20).

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Car? \_\_\_\_\_

(You don't need a car to deliver if we can pair you with a driver)

## Shift Availability

Please check all shifts for which you are available.

Can you do more than one shift? \_\_\_\_\_

How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Same day? \_\_\_\_\_ Different days? \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, December 24

Wednesday, December 25

### San Francisco

- |                          |                         |               |                          |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Food preparation:       | 8:30am – Noon | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Food packaging:         | Noon – 3:30pm | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deliver meals or gifts: | 3 – 6pm       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Food preparation:       | 5 – 9pm       |                          |

### East Bay

- |                          |                |          |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deliver gifts: | 3 – 6 pm |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------|

## Orientation Sessions

Orientation/team and route assignment sessions will be held in San Francisco. Please check the one you can attend.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav – Sunday, December 22

- |                          |         |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 – 5pm | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5:30 – 6:30pm |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|

Project Open Hand – Wednesday, December 18

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6:30 – 7:30pm |
|--------------------------|---------------|

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I cannot attend but I am an experienced volunteer.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I cannot attend and have never volunteered before (you can participate only if we can pair you with an experienced volunteer). |

## Confirmations

Please do not show up at Project Open Hand's offices unless you have received a written or phoned confirmation from Lane Schickler.

## Sorry ...

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I cannot participate in this effort but would like to know how I can help during the year. I know that Project Open Hand needs volunteers 365 days a year. |
|--------------------------|--|



*Congregation Sha'ar Zahav invites you to  
come to the Chanukah Hop!!*

*Saturday, December 7th, 1991*

*held at*

*Milberry Union  
University of California, San Francisco*

*500 Parnassus Street, San Francisco*

*6:30 p.m. - Children's party with entertainment*

*8:00 p.m. - Adult's party . Join us for Sha'ar Zahav's  
silent auction and Chanukah raffle. Dance to your  
favorites from years past.*

*Adult Admission: \$7.00 members and \$10.00 non-members*

*Parking is available behind the UCSF Dental School in a lot located at 4th  
Avenue and Kirkham (\$.75, exact change).*

*Childcare will be available.*

Bald Fish  
Robert Cottman

Keith Entwistle